

THE BRITISH COLONIST

Thursday Morning, August 5, 1863.

TO ADVERTISERS.

All advertisements, unless the time for which they are to be inserted is specified, will be continued until ordered out, and so charged.

JOB PRINTING.

For Book and Job Printing of every description mainly executed. Terms, cash on delivery of the work.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Young countries are in more senses than one like young children. Among the many points of resemblance, none is more patent than that of plasticity. The young mind is like clay in the hands of the potter, and so is the young colony. Both easily receive impressions from without, and accommodate themselves to them without any difficulty. Old Countries are the very opposite of this. They are like full grown trees. The time to bend them with ease passed with their youth. They are huge bundles of customs and habits, so easy to form and so difficult to part with. This fact is not without its warning to every young and growing country. Habits will be formed. Customs will arise. They will exercise immense influence for either good or evil. How important then is it not, that we should in our legislation and the regulations we may make for the government of society in these Colonies, proceed upon true principles; that we should leave nothing to mere chance; that we should avoid anything like a tendency to want of system. We are just at that stage in which we can avail ourselves of the experience of others. We have all the past from which to cull useful hints to serve us in our future progress.

Old countries are continually finding out some point of their economy which is susceptible and in need of improvement; some bad habits, that require to be eradicated, and some good ideas that ought to be adopted. In this respect a vast change for the better is observable in England. A parliamentary committee inquires into and masters the abuse of the deficiency, reports and suggests a remedy. Reform follows almost invariably as a matter of course.

Among the questions which have lately occupied the attention of the people at home in the matter of reform is that relating to weights and measures. This, however, is not the first time that important subject has come before the legislature to be dealt with. From the earliest dates of parliamentary government in England to the present time, attempts have been made to deal with this difficult question. Uniformity has been sought for more than once, but in vain. The habits of generations were not so easily changed. New weights and measures introduced to supplant old ones, only made the confusion greater by increasing the number, for both flourished side by side, till now it is said there seem to be almost as many different weights and measures in the country as there are towns and villages and articles of commerce. Such a state of things must be injurious. It is difficult to see how a sensible people could suffer it to exist so long. Fancy a bushel weighing in six different localities, 168, 80, 73, 70, 63, or 60 pounds. And so with respect to the hundred weight, the subdivisions of a pound weight, the length of English, Irish, and Scotch miles.

Many of these weights and measures originated from parts of the human body, others from familiar objects, such as the barley-corn. Such changeable bases must have often produced changes of standards. To obviate this, the legislature some twenty years ago, ordered standards of metal to be made and embedded in the masonry of some public building. This, however, has not yet been done nor is it now likely to be undertaken. The Select Parliamentary Committee, appointed last year, to consider the subject, pronounced in favor of the metric system, which upon the report of the celebrated savans Lagrange, Condorcet, and La Place was first adopted by France, but now prevails over most of the continental countries including Belgium, Holland, Sardinia, Tuscany, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and Greece, whilst Russia is also making preparation to adopt it. By this system which is decimal the unit of length is the metre—this is the ten millionth part of a quarter of the earth's circumference of the equator. All the other measures greater and smaller are deduced decimalically from this. The whole system is most beautiful and convenient, nevertheless the Committee taking warning from the difficulties attending its introduction in France, recommend that no compulsory measures shall be resorted to for its adoption in England, until they are sanctioned by the general conviction of the public. They recommend, however, that a "Department of Weights and Measures" be established in connection with the Board of Trade who shall be entrusted with the conservation of the standard, as well as the duty of making the metric system known to the public.

They also advise the system be taught in schools receiving Government aid, that it shall be part of the competitive examination for the civil service; that it shall be used in levying the customs; in the publication of statistics of income and expenditure, &c.; and that the employment of any other weights and measures than the imperial and metric shall be interdicted until the latter has been generally adopted. That this will be done we have no doubt. A writer on the subject, in a recent number of the *Spectator* says: "The metric system, according to the Select Committee, must inevitably come upon us, for the simple reason that our present non-system has become cumbersome and inconvenient; and that it would be unwise and almost impossible to invent a new one; all that remains is to adopt the system already in use over the greater part of Europe." As soon as England has adopted it, which will not be long the rest of the world will soon follow. There is no reason, however, why we should not make preparations even now for the change. We have adopted the decimal monetary system, why not adopt that of measurement, and put an end to the complaints that we so often made on that score. Let the system be taught in our schools. Let the standards be procured, and our surveys of the public lands in both colonies be henceforth carried on according to them. We might also require our returns from the public officers, such as port statistics, converted into the metrical denominations. By this means we would be soon enabled to adopt the system in its entirety.

USE:

E. GOODWIN & BRO.'S

NEW YORK PATENT PRESSED

CHEWING TOBACCO.

For Sale Everywhere.

This TOBACCO is manufactured expressly for the use of the American market. It is white and will not turn it gray, keeping it always moist, and causing it to last longer than any length of time.

1/250 m is

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

5 Cases Bliss & Co.'s Chip-PING NORTON DOUBLE and TREBLE MILLED TWEEDS; DOESKINS and CORDS;

10 CASES DUNNET, BROWN, & CO.'S CRIMEAN SHIRTS, EXTRA SIZES; A FULL LINE OF WINES, SPIRITS, &c., &c.

FOR SALE

—BY—

CARSWELL & CO., Langley Street,

TO BE RAFFLED!

AT THE FASHION HOTEL,

SATURDAY, September 5th, AT 9 P.M.,

A Splendid SILVER-PLATED CUT CRYSTAL, 12 LIGHT

Chandelier; THE MOST MAGNIFICENT ARTICLE of the kind ever imported to the Pacific Coast.

50 Chances, at \$5 Each!

Visitors are respectfully invited to call at the Fashion Hotel Parlors, where the Chandelier will be on view until the evening of the Raffle.

1/250 m

To Fire-wood Dealers,

TEAMSTERS, AND BOATMEN.

WANTED TO SELL, OR TO HAVE removed to Victoria from FOUR TO FIVE HUNDRED CUBIC FEET, and now lying four miles from the city, it is conveniently piled for easy transit by land or water.

Apply to

CARSWELL & CO., Langley street.

ROCK BAY HOUSE!

(BETWEEN THE BRIDGES)

J. W. CROMER.

Bowling Alley,

WINES, LIQUORS,

—AND—

CIGARS.

1/250 m

GENTILE & CO.,

—HAVE JUST RECEIVED—

LATEST STYLES

Trimmed Straw BONNETS and

HATS!

Bridal Bonnets,

Head Dresses of Latest Paris Fashions,

Dress Caps, Evening Dresses,

Choice lot of Mantles, at very low prices,

Ladies' Underclothing.

Jupons—Garibaldi Jackets,

Cambric Handkerchief, Lace Falls,

ETC., ETC., ETC.

1/250 m

GENTILE & CO.

(Underneath the Oriental Billiard Saloon)

Cor. of Fort and Government Street,

Choice Lots of real Laces, Flowers, Feathers, Silks, Grenadiers &c., to arrive *per* next Express.

1/250 m

GENTILE & CO.,

II HAVE FOR SALE!

Two Rosewood Pianos,

A Splendid Harmonicorde,

Musical Boxes,

Violins.—Violin Strings,

New Music,

Photographic Albums,

Microscope Slides,

Stationery, Objects de Paris,

Inksstands—Choice assortment of

English goods at low prices, Playing Cards, Ladies' Morocco Bags, &c., &c., &c.

GENTILE & CO.,

(Underneath the Oriental Billiard Saloon)

Fort Street.

Books lent to read—One Bit per Vol.

1/250 m

ANGLO-AMERICAN,

Temperance Hotel,

Corner of Douglas and Yates streets,

VICTORIA, V. I.

BOARD AND LODGING

FROM \$6 TO \$9 PER WEEK.

Good Accommodations for Families!

THE READING ROOM

IS WELL SUPPLIED WITH ENGLISH, CANADIAN, California, and the Local Papers.

These being conducted on strictly temperate and quiet of home

E. C. HOLDEN, Proprietor.

1/250 m

Vaughan & Robertson,

Photographic Artists,

VICTORIA THEATRE, V. I.

1/250 m

Oregon Produce!

FLOUR—Magnolia, Extra;

BACON—Gunny Bags;

BUTTER—Fresh Roll, In Kegs;

FOR SALE BY

DICKSON, CAMPBELL & CO., Wharf street.

1/250 m

FOR SALE.

80 BEDSTEADS, DOUBLE AND

SINGLES, Single Spring Puff, and Straw Mattresses, Blankets, Bed Sheets and Coverlets, also, all the furniture necessary for bedrooms.

1/250 m

Applies to

MRS. LUSCH,

At the Metropolitan Lodging House,

1/250 m

LOWE BROTHERS.

1/250 m

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

CREDIT SALE!

AUCTION.

THIS DAY

Thursday, August 6th,

At 11 o'clock, A. M.

BY

J. A. McCREA

WILL SELL

AT HIS STORE, ON

WHARF STREET,

Fort Street.

—AND—

IRONMONGERY

STORE,

Fort Street.

—AND—

MALT LIQUORS.

PORTER in bottle, Friend's, Hibbert's, Byass and Tenant's.

DO in wood, Tenant's, XXX.

ALE in wood, Tenant's, No. 3.

DO in bottle, Alburgh by Friend & Byass', Bass, Tenant's &c.

BRANDY—Martell's Old Pale and Dark, in qr. cask.

DO Jules, Robin & Co., Pale, in case and qr. cask.

DO Tribalt, File & Co., " " qr. cask.

DO Henmer, Champagne Cognac, in case.

DO Henri Uclouer, in case.

DO Ouard, Puppy & Co., in case.

BRUMAL—Old Jamaica.

WHISKY—Scotch case, Stewart's, Brackla, Sheds & Gillons.

RUM—Old Jamaica.

BRITISH WINES—Ginger Cordial, Raspberry, Vinegar and Lime Juice.

WINE—Ginger Cordial, Raspberry, Vinegar and Lime Juice.

DRINKS—Ginger Cordial, Raspberry, Vinegar and Lime Juice.

